



Methodist
Church

Partnership News

23 September 2007

25th in Ordinary Time



Church of
England

Partnership Church Services Today

8.30am Holy Communion every Sunday on the 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday at Putnoe Heights Church. On the 2nd & 4th Sunday in St Mark's Chapel.

9.30am St Mark's - Morning Worship

Preacher – Revd Charles Royden
Leadership Team - Mr Mike Cooper
Intercessions - Mrs Margaret Appleton
Joan is away with the walking group today.

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher - Revd Charles Royden
Leadership Team - Mr Alan Cooper
Intercessions - Dr Tim Wilkes

26th in Ordinary - 30 September

9.30am St Mark's - Harvest Festival

Preacher – Reverend Dr Joan Crossley
Leadership Team - Mrs Delia Shephard
Intercessions - Mrs Delia Shephard

11.00am Putnoe Heights - Harvest Festival

Preacher - Reverend Dr Joan Crossley
Leadership Team – Mr Lawrence Wyatt
Intercessions - Ministers

Readings 30 September

- 1: Amos 6: 1a, 4-7
- 2 1 Timothy 6: 6-19
- 3: Luke 16:

Thank You

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Mrs Veta Hudson-Rae in memory of her mother and to celebrate her own birthday today and Samuel's birthday next week.

We are always grateful for any donations for flowers perhaps to celebrate a special occasion, an anniversary or in memory of a loved one. Please contact Miss Marion Prior 303254 (St Mark's) or Miss Jennie Cooper 404950 (Putnoe Heights)

Prayer for Sunday

Lord God, in whom we live and move and have our being, open our eyes to your Fatherly presence forever around us. Draw our hearts with the power of your love and teach us to be anxious for nothing. Take from us all doubt and mistrust and lift our thoughts heavenwards into the light of your glory; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Brooke Foss Westcott, 1825-1901

Contact Details

The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR
266952 Fax- 402624 NSM@ThisisChurch.com
(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

The Reverend Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)

30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.
Home 344536 Crossley@thisischurch.com

The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY
309175 Mobile 07973 113861 vicar@thisisChurch.com

For Data Protection Purposes

Please note that any items submitted for inclusion in Partnership News will automatically be posted on our website.

Partnership News is also archived on our church website www.ThisisChurch.com

Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com
Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved, housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services. Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.

Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open 9am—5pm Monday to Friday

Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 putnoe@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630 & 344417
Leadership Team Mr Alan Cooper 365302 Mob 07989367604
Treasurer Mr Ian Morse 216428 treasurerph@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186
Youth & children's worker - Mrs Spavins 302349 youth@thisischurch.com

St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5.00pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 office@thisischurch.com
Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613
Leadership Team - Mrs L Parry 216624
Treasurer - Mr Ian Farthing 210892 treasurer@thisischurch.com
Gift Aid Administrator Mr Williams 360605

Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

Monday

9.30-12.00pm Mon-Fri Putnoe Heights Pre-school
Headteacher Mrs Janet Smith ☎326685

8.30-5.30pm Mon-Fri St Mark's Pre-school
Headteacher Mrs. Helen Harpin ☎312634
(See website for more details)

9.00am Clubhouse at St. Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.

10.00am Bakers Barn Art Group. St Mark's
Mr Kellie ☎721063

10.45am U3A Playreading St Mark's C Birks ☎219607

12.00pm Story box We welcome the under 5's and their carers to join them between 12noon and 1pm for a sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and singing. ☎Liz 302349

2.30pm Bedford Arts Society Putnoe Heights Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741 (weekly from 25 September 2006)

4.00pm Storybox Plus Putnoe Heights for 4-9 year Old. Meet at 3.30 for refreshments & games. Then till 5pm 'follow the year' through stories, drama, singing & craft activities. We then make a short presentation in church on first Sunday in each month. ☎Liz Spavins 302349

4.15pm Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness. Putnoe Heights. Miriam Adcock ☎01908 565044

4.15pm Kumon Maths Putnoe Heights. Ms Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698

6.00pm Brownies St Mark's. Mrs C Mathew ☎826190

6.15 pm Brownies Putnoe. Sharon Tanner ☎364710

7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild St Mark's 1st week every month Pat Nicholson ☎353518

7.15pm Guides. St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake ☎218091

7.15pm Yoga. Putnoe Heights Karen Simpson ☎244970

7.30pm Creative Needles. Putnoe Heights. Jacky Hayward ☎307648.

7.30pm Whist Drive. St Mark's each month next meeting 17 September - Judith Stanton. ☎823313

7.30pm Housegroup 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck ☎267567.

8.00pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit' Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field ☎404976

Tuesday

9.30am Candlewicking (Needlework). Putnoe Heights. Judi Staughton ☎341821

9.30am -12.30 & 4-9pm Slimming World St. Mark's. Helen Folbigg ☎351223

10am -Bedord Arts Society starting at St Mark's on the 11th September. ☎Mrs Brown 771676

1.30pm Toddlers Playtime. Putnoe Heights. Andrea ☎210177 or Majella ☎325293.

1.30pm U3A Cinema Group. St Mark's last Tuesday of the month. Mr Austin ☎365184

2.00pm U3A Book Group. St Mark's 3rd Tuesday of the month Mrs Berman ☎364723

2.00pm Library Walk W.I. Putnoe Heights, meets monthly. Mrs C Allen ☎363878

2-5pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship. Next meeting Sept 25 Members - Harvest Festival. Betty Wyatt ☎350188.

2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group. St Mark's alternate weeks. Wool and knitting needles provided. Mrs Maureen Watling ☎262225

2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup. St Mark's alternate weeks. Mary Stubbs ☎406784.

3.45pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe Heights. Esther Sancto ☎272517 or ☎07917 0582468.

6.30pm Yoga Putnoe Heights. Rachel Leontyne ☎783129

7.00pm Hearts in Beds Cardiac Support Group St Mark's 1st Tuesday ☎Parsons 351150

7pm Creative Card Making St Mark's 1st & 3rd Week of the month Carol Houghton ☎346718

7pm Keep Fit. St. Mark's Jan Gregory ☎328455

7pm MT Karate [all ages] Putnoe Heights. Karen King ☎07941 264885

7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Bible study & prayers. Revd.Tarr ☎360188 or 07866775515

7.30pm Chartered Management Institute St Marks 3rd week of the month. Mrs Dimmock ☎01525 862374

7.45pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club - Meets fortnightly. Next meeting 25 Sept. Harvest Meal. Nicki Attenborough. Audrey Wilkins ☎365068 or Margaret Gentle ☎309043

Wednesday

9.00am Paint Tots St Mark's Jacqui Harrahan ☎824475

9.30am Childminding Support Group Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman ☎313949

9.30am Body Control Pilates. Putnoe Heights. Stephanie Smith ☎357787.

9.00am Clubhouse at St Mark's for those with Learning Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.

10.00am Holy Communion. St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.

10am Sewing & Chat. Putnoe Heights Valerie Russell ☎01462 815966

10.30 am U3A Art Appreciation Putnoe Heights Fortnightly. Audrey Hancock ☎365915.

Luncheon Club. Putnoe Heights fortnightly. Next meeting 19 September Putnoe Heights Office ☎365630

1.00-3pm Police Surgery at Putnoe Heights .

1.15pm Bridge Club for the Retired. St. Mark's. Mr Barnes ☎261811

2pm U3A Whist Group St Mark's 3rd week of the month (starting 19th Sept) ☎400584

2.15pm - Fifty plus Keep Fit. Putnoe Heights Mrs Webster ☎856966

4.15pm Kumon Maths. Putnoe Heights Mrs Raksha Mistry ☎01908 392698

6.00 pm Brownies. St Mark's. Mrs Carol Warden ☎219731

6.15pm Yoga and Relaxation Putnoe Heights Rachell Monton ☎01234 297138

6.30pm Karate. St Mark's Karen ☎079412 64885

7.00pm Bunyan Bridge. St. Mark's Brian Sallows ☎407725

7pm U3A Whist Group St Mark's 4th Wednesday of the month (starting 26th Sept) ☎400584

7.00pm Archaeological & Local History Society Putnoe Heights monthly. . Sylvia Woods ☎365095

7.00pm Yoga St Mark's Dorothy Turner ☎721763

7.00pm Putnoe Guild Putnoe Heights monthly Janice ☎Loxley 347073

7.45pm Badminton Club Putnoe Heights All welcome.
Ken Marriott ☎214867

8.00pm Tudor Reeds Folk Dance Club St Mark's,
1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday. Next meeting 19 September
Graham ☎406359 or Danny ☎401668.

8.00pm Bedford Wine and Social Club St Mark's 1st
week Mrs Gansfield ☎215016

Thursday

9.30am Thursday Prayer Group. Putnoe Heights in the
quiet room. Sylvia Cohen ☎343424

*Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the
information table.*

9.30am Jo Jingles. St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-
school children. Jayne Phillips ☎01582 485333

9.45am Yoga Putnoe Heights Karen Simpson ☎244970

9.45am Chat and Play St. Mark's. A group for Mums &
toddlers. £1.75 for first child Next meeting 13 September.
More details from St. Marks Office ☎342613 or Emma
Strangwick ☎211070

1.30pm-3.00pm NHS Baby Clinic. St. Mark's ☎267444

12pm Storybox. St Mark's welcome the under 5's and
their carers to join them between 12 noon and 1pm for a
sandwich lunch followed by a Bible based story and
singing. Lots of fun. Next meeting 6 September. Contact
Emma Strangwick ☎211070

1.30pm Toddler Playtime. Putnoe Andrea ☎210177 or
Magella ☎325293.

2pm Putnoe Bridge Club. Gerald Palmer ☎345991

5.30pm Police Surgery. St Mark's Foyer.

6.15 pm Weightwatchers. St. Mark's. Mrs Margaret Ralph
☎01767 224978.

6.15pm Brownies. Putnoe Heights Helga Nash ☎218521

6.15pm Bedford Junior Chess Club. St. Mark's
Mr C Hill ☎772922

7.00pm Club 2000 Putnoe Heights
Sheila Jakeman ☎261935

7pm U3A Folk & Poetry Group. St Mark's 2nd & 4th
week of the month. Doug Ovenden ☎825059

7.30pm Bedford Senior Chess Club St Mark's Mr P
Housden ☎376597

7.30pm Bedford Embroiderers' Guild St Mark's
3rd Thursday of the month. Mrs C Smith ☎344544

7.30pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights
Bible Studies every 2 Thursday– Pastor Tarr ☎360188

8.00pm Bedford Writers Circle. St Mark's 1st week
each month. Mr Newton ☎01525 378193

8.00pm Magpies Women's Group St Mark's 2nd & 4th
week Mrs Cotchin ☎402089

8.00pm Brickhill Wives St Mark's 1st and 3rd week Next
meeting Mrs Woods ☎404702

Friday

**9.30-12.30pm & 12.30 - 2.30pm U3A Photography
Group** St Marks 4th week Joyce Fildes ☎353086

9.00am Clubhouse St. Mark's for those with Learning
Disabilities. Karen Bywater ☎315460.

1.30pm Stars School of Dance Putnoe Heights Contact
Esther Sancto ☎272517 or ☎07917 582468

2.00pm U3A Gardening Group Putnoe Heights Eve
Whitehead ☎356875

6.30pm Line Dancing. St Mark's Christine Rushton ☎
782360

7pm Bedford Arts Society fortnightly Putnoe Heights
from 8 September. Malcolm Smith ☎01234 400741

7pm Youth Club for age 10-15. St Mark's Church.
Contact PC Dave Hawkey ☎349179

Saturday

9.00pm Stars School of Dance. Putnoe
Esther Sancto ☎272517 or ☎07917 582468

10.00 pm Theatretrain St Mark's. Dancing acting, singing.
Kate Randle ☎01234 782414

7.00pm Duplicate Bridge. St Mark's Mrs Pillinger
☎212066

Sunday

9.30 - 10.30 Church and Sunday School at St Mark's
with crèche for under 3's

11.00 - 12.00 Church and Junior at Putnoe Heights for
the under 9's and Young Peoples Fellowship (Y.P.F) for
our young adults. A crèche is also available.

1pm Tabernacle of Truth Church Putnoe Heights Revd.
Tarr ☎360188 or ☎07866775515

6pm T.N.T. Putnoe. For 9-12 year olds (fortnightly) join us
for fellowship, fun, games & outings. Liz ☎302349.

6pm T.X.T Putnoe. for 13 + fortnightly, join us for
fellowship, debate & discussion. Liz ☎302349

Diary Dates

St Mark's Church Council – 12 November

St Mark's Leadership Team –28 November 2007
27 February 2008, 13 May 2008

Putnoe Heights Leadership Team –17 September

St Mark's Church Forum Meeting - 15th January
2008 12 noon

Putnoe Heights Centre Management - 19
November

Putnoe Church Council - 8th October

Pastoral Group Meeting –

Churchyard Committee - 16 January 2008

Putnoe Heights Mission Group Meeting :

Partnership Council -

Brickhill Parish Council Meetings

Deanery Meeting - 8 November

Circuit Meeting - 25 September

Woodland Burial Trustees -

Putnoe Heights Children & Youth– 24th

September at 1pm after Storybox.

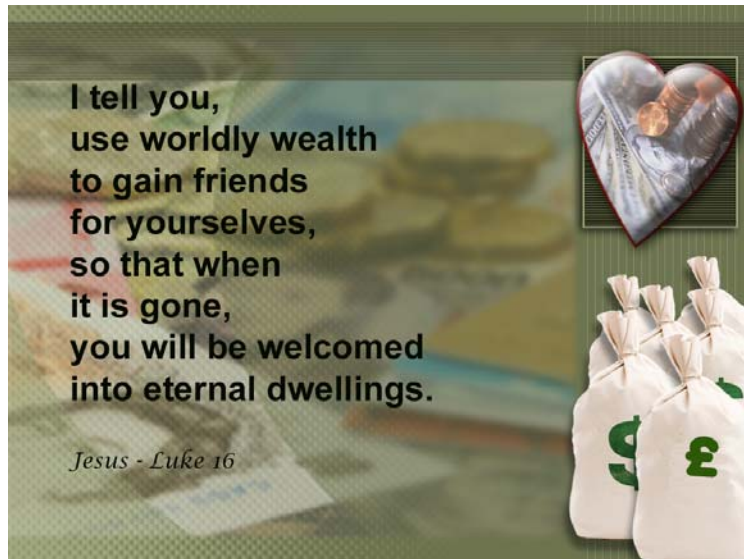
Telecare



Telecare

It is extremely helpful to the
Ministers to be able to have feed
back, especially if somebody is
poorly or in hospital. If you have
not yet put your name down on the

Telecare scheme, please do so. Additional
members of the Pastoral Team are sharing the
task of making telephone calls. Please do not be
concerned if a new person calls.



24th in Ordinary

Opening Verse - Psalm 113:2-3

Blessed be the name of the Lord,
from this time on and forevermore.
From the rising of the sun to its
setting, the name of the Lord is to be
praised.

Collect Prayer for the Day -

Before we read we pray

Merciful God, you have prepared for
those who love you, such good
things as pass our understanding.
Pour into our hearts such love

towards you that we, loving you above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

First Bible Reading - Amos 8: 4-7

Hear this, you who trample the needy and do away with the poor of the land, saying, "When will the New Moon be over that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath be ended that we may market wheat?"- skimping the measure, boosting the price and cheating with dishonest scales, buying the poor with silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, selling even the sweepings with the wheat. The LORD has sworn by the Pride of Jacob: "I will never forget anything they have done.

(This is the word of the Lord - **Thanks be to God**)

Second Bible Reading - 1 Timothy 2: 1-7

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone-- for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men--the testimony given in its proper time. And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle--I am telling the truth, I am not lying--and a teacher of the true faith to the Gentiles.

(This is the word of the Lord- **Thanks be to God**)

Third Bible Reading – Luke 16: 1-13

Jesus told his disciples: "There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. So he called him in and asked him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.' "The manager said to himself, 'What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I'm not strong enough to dig, and I'm ashamed to beg-- know what I'll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.' "So he called in each one of his master's debtors. He asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' " 'Eight hundred gallons of olive oil,' he replied. "The manager told him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred.' "Then he asked the second, 'And how much do you owe?' " 'A thousand bushels of wheat,' he replied. "He told him, 'Take your bill and make it eight hundred.' "The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own? "No

servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."
(This is the word of the Lord -**Thanks be to God**)

Post Communion Prayer

God of our pilgrimage, you have willed that the gates of mercy should stand open for those who trust in you: look upon us with your favour that we who follow the path of your will may never wander from the way of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Commentary

Almost everybody says what a difficult parable this one from Luke is. Jesus appears to be commending the behaviour of a dishonest manager, would Jesus really extol the virtues of corrupt business practice? We need to remember that the parables of Jesus do have some fairly horrible people used as examples. It is not that we should copy these people, rather there are lessons to be observed from what they do. In the parable of the wise and foolish virgins for example, the wise virgins tell the foolish ones to go and get their own oil instead of trying to borrow some of theirs. This is quite selfish behaviour, but the point Jesus is making is that we should be prepared, he is not saying we should be selfish and refuse to share with others. Think again about the man who knew that treasure was buried in a field. He said nothing to the owner but went and bought the field. That is not particularly pleasant behaviour, but it does make the point that if something is valuable, then it is worth sacrificing everything to get hold of it.

In the story from Luke this week, we are told about a manager who has been incompetent. Faced with the prospect of the sack, he prepares for himself an exit strategy which will be like a golden parachute. From being an incompetent manager he instead is able to act in a very resourceful manner, boosted by an instinct for personal survival. He decides upon a plan which will allow him to ingratiate himself to lots of rich people, before his dismissal becomes public knowledge. As a result the rich people will welcome him into their homes and offer him hospitality, and provide favours when he is 'in between' employment. Perhaps if he ingratiates himself with enough people, someone might even help him to find a better job – or might hire him.

The first thing to note about the story is that the rich master appears to have been acting in a way which broke the Jewish law. In Deuteronomy 23:19 it says
'Do not charge your brother interest, whether on money or food or anything else that may earn interest. You may charge a foreigner interest, but not a brother Israelite, so that the LORD your God may bless you in everything you put your hand to in the land you are entering to possess.'

Jewish belief was that righteous lenders should not profit from their neighbours by charging interest. The King James Version of the Bible always used the word 'usury.' It is hard for us in today's society to understand interest as a bad thing, but this is only because we all owe so much! Great philosophers and theologians from Plato and Aristotle to Luther and Zwingli all condemned charging interest.

Jews were forbidden to practice usury (interest charged), but many schemes were devised to get around it, and these are still used by strict Jews. As an example, lending was often done in kind, with oil and wheat being suitable commodities. The rich man had most probably been involved in this practice and so the manager makes changes to the payment accounts, effectively lowering the rate of interest!

The amounts involved were large. A hundred bathous of olive oil, a bath is about nine gallons, so the debtor owes 900 gallons of olive oil. A hundred koros of wheat, a cor is approximately 10-15 bushels, so the debtor owes 1000-1500 bushels of wheat. This is a big banking business and the discounts which the manager offers are fifty percent for one and twenty percent for the other. With such huge savings it is reasonable to assume that the word of the rich man's generosity will soon spread, enhancing his reputation. He will then be faced with two options, either enjoying his newly enhanced reputation and accepting his losses or retracting the discounts at the expense of his reputation and at the risk of permanently damaging the relationship with his debtors. The manager has left the debtors with the impression that he is equally responsible for the reductions thus leaving the rich man's debtors in debt to himself as well. The rich man cannot rescind the discounts without suffering loss of honour and creating bad will among his debtors. The rich man has to concede that the manager has pulled a brilliant stroke!

Jesus notes how children of this age, people who are worldly wise, are focused on the realm of this world.

They understand how the world works and they are capable of manipulating it to their benefit. So too children of the kingdom need to be equally savvy in ways to prosper in the kingdom of God.

We need today to hear the parable first of all as if we were the original listeners. The crisis management shown by the manger was excellent. The first hearers of this parable were about to face their own crisis. Jesus will continue to Jerusalem and there will follow turbulent times with the persecutions and the fall of Rome. How will Jesus followers behave? When things get really difficult, will they be prudent and think of their long term future, or will they crumble in the face of adversity and perhaps forsake their convictions? We can ask ourselves the same question when we are faced with crisis. So Jesus is not using this shrewd manger as a role model, but he is drawing attention to how a shrewd, worldly wise man can be empowered by self interest to do some very inventive things to secure future prospects. He does not commend the poor business ethics, but he is encouraging his hearers to be imaginative and focused when it comes to planning for their future and that of the Kingdom. This parable is an encouragement to be single minded, focused and take spiritual provision for the future seriously. It is about our fundamental choices and loyalties, God and his Kingdom values should take centre stage in our lives.

Read through Luke and you will see a great deal of teaching about money, poverty, kindness to the poor. Luke shows us a Jesus who is suspicious of world wealth. Material wealth can become a preoccupation and divert our attention away from the important eternal spiritual values. We have all seen how money can break up personal friendships, families and marriages. So too wars are fought over land and resources. The temptation can be to think that we should just avoid the whole economic system. Jesus doesn't say that, rather he tells us that we should not try and be pure and uncontaminated by worldly wealth, instead we should use it wisely. We will find it hard to keep our hands clean, but that doesn't mean we can keep them in our pockets. *Charles Royden*



Meditation It is now ten years since the death of Mother Teresa of Calcutta. A publication of a book of her letters shows that for nearly the last fifty years of her life she felt no experience of the presence of God. Time Magazine printed an article analysing her experience. Christianity is not about seeking spiritual experiences. Mother Teresa's is an example to us all and an encouragement of all who struggle and doubt. In a culture which is all too obsessed with feelings, the value of commitment is shown by this saint .

Hymns (Please distribute Morning Worship and Mission Praise)

1. Take my life and let it be 624 (Tune Nottingham)
2. Restore O Lord 579
3. As the deer 37
4. Love divine 449 (Tune Blaenwern)
5. Thou who wast rich 700 (Tune Fragrance)

Prayers for Sunday and the Week Ahead

Help us, O God, to feel good about giving without feeling that it makes us better than anyone else. Help us to find joy in sharing without assuming that it gives us the right to look down at those who have little to share. May your love rather than our pride go into all the world with these gifts. Amen.

God our heavenly Father, when the thought of you wakes in our hearts, let its awakening not be like a startled bird that flies about in fear. Instead, let it be like a child waking from sleep with a heavenly smile.

O Christ, our Morning Star, Splendour of Light Eternal, shining with the glory of the rainbow, come and waken us from the greyness of our apathy, and renew in us your gift of hope. Amen.

Lord Jesus, I give you my hands to do your work. I give you my feet to go your way. I give you my eyes to see as you do. I give you my tongue to speak your words. I give you my mind that you may think in me. I give you my spirit that you may pray in me. Above all, I give you my heart that you may love in me your Father and all mankind. I give you my whole self that you may grow in me, so that it is you, Lord Jesus, who live and work and pray in me.

Set The Video Look out for 'Friends and Heroes,' a UK-produced animated adventure series for primary school children. It features Bible Stories from both Old and New Testaments, and is being shown at 10:45 am on most Tuesdays from 2 October until 11 December as part of BBC2's educational output. More details from <http://uk.friendsandheroes.com>. Some primary schools in the diocese will be watching and taking part in a survey on biblical literacy among children.

"An Evening from the Shows." Saturday 13th October at St Mark's 7.30. Tickets will be available from the church office, members of the leadership team or Ian Farthing. Cost £7 Adults, £4 Children (under 14 years).

TXT Meets this Sunday This is the new youth group for our young teenagers starting in September on alternate Sunday evenings 6.30 - 8.00pm. We shall be doing a little Bible Study followed by some fun activities and prayer. If you could spare the time to be one of our adult helpers please contact Sam Ware on 304058.

Putnoe Harvest Lunch : Sunday 30 September at 1pm. Tickets are available from Putnoe Office for £5 adults, £2.50 Children under 10. Two courses with soft drink and tea and coffee. (They usually go very quickly).

Musical "Allsorts" Evening— Cranfield ecumenical choir, Sounds Familiar, is organising a Voices for Hospices concert to be held on October 6th at 7.30pm in Stewartby Village Hall. This is an International event biennially to raise much needed money for the hospices. The Sounds Familiar concert will be raising money for Willen, Keech Cottage, St Johns (Sue Ryder) and Bedford Day Hospice. With a variety of choirs and groups taking part, there should be 'something for everyone.' Ticket prices:- Adults £5, Concessions and under 16's £3.50 and family ticket £12.50. Available from Jan on 01234 751085 or on the door.

Putnoe Heights Church Harvest Festival - You are invited to donate gifts of fruit and vegetables or any other food, tin goods etc. Please bring them to the church and leave in office on Thursday 27th or Friday 28th September, or bring to the Harvest Festival Service on Sunday 30th September. All goods will be donated to Prebend Street Day Care. Holy Communion. There is a service of Holy Communion at Sir William Harpur House on the first Monday of every month, led by Charles Royden. Everybody is invited to attend, not just residents.

Putnoe Heights Children and Youth meeting Monday 24th September 2007 at 1pm after Storybox.

Ouse Valley Singers present a concert of light music on Saturday 13th October at 7.30pm in Bromham Baptist Church. Donations to Christian Family Care. Further information from Lyn Sewell 01234 781903

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning. Peter and Valerie Littleford invite friends old and new to a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Relief on Friday 28th September between 10am and 12.30pm at 1 Bindon Abbey (Riverfield Drive).

Contemporary Music Worship Service "Hillsong Music Worship" 6.30pm 23rd September at Priory Methodist Church. This service forms part of our WOW (Worship in Other Ways) monthly programme. The theme is Faith & Love. Café style with nibbles, opportunity to reaffirm faith. All are very welcome.

Women's Network District Day on 11 October 11am - 3.15pm. at Dunstable Methodist Church, The Square, LU6 3SN. The subject is 'Slavery Then and Now'

A District Craft Day will be held at Priory Methodist Church on Saturday 3 November. For further details contact Pam Seymour 305695. Closing date for bookings 10 October

Churches call for full ban on cluster bombs
The Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church and the Baptist Union of Great Britain call on the UK Government to end their use of cluster bombs by UK forces. The churches are asking Foreign Secretary David Miliband to support an international ban on such weapons. Cluster bombs are air or ground launched devices that scatter smaller bombs (or submunitions) over a large area. The submunitions that fail to explode pose a unique threat to civilians. These unexploded bombs effectively create minefields and maim and kill children or adults who disturb them later on. In the two months after the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, three or four civilians were killed, on average, every day by unexploded cluster bombs. On average, a child died each day as a result of these weapons. The Revd David Deeks, General Secretary of the Methodist Church, says there is still much more to be done; "Important progress has been made, but that's no reason to stop now. The UK still retains other types of cluster bomb, which are just as inhumane and leave behind a deadly legacy. It's time for the Government to act on the promises made earlier this year and show that it means business." The Churches have also published campaign information online at www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/clustermunitions showing how everybody can make a difference.

Walk the wall and help save innocent lives!

Feed The Children UK will be abseiling the 140ft tall Bedford Park Inn on Sunday 21st October 07, to raise money to help some of the poorest children around the world. Why not join us and help save a child's life? All you have to do is pay a £10 registration fee (which goes towards the cost of the abseil company) and then pledge to raise £100 in sponsorship. To find out more about this exciting event call Miranda on 0118 932 0095, email mparker@feedthechildren.org.uk or see the events section at www.feedthechildren.org.uk to download an application form. (The minimum age for participants is 16 years.)

Coffee Morning Saturday 6 Oct. from 10 till 12 At the home of Eddie & Irene McKenzie's 16 Chillingham Green. Proceeds for Mission funds. Requests for transport 311569

Volunteers required for disability shop (Shopmobility Howard centre) Mornings 9am - 1pm Afternoons 1pm - 4.30pm. Contact Sheila Whittemore Tel 01234 404962.

'Pearls of Wisdom' quiz coming on Sunday 14 October. £1 per entry all proceeds for Mission Funds. Closing date 18 November. Draw on Sunday 25 - First two correct solutions drawn from hat win £10 & £5 respectively. Sylvia Cohen 343424

Church Council. There will be a quick meeting of the Church Council after the Sunday Service at St Mark's and at Putnoe Heights to make sure we have elected members to Circuit Meeting.


Tesco Sports Vouchers are being collected by St Mark's Preschool. Vouchers may be handed in at the Church Office and will be gratefully received. Very many thanks. Helen Harpin.

Footprints Sunday 7th October Navigators' Way—meet at North Bridge in the centre of Shefford 2.30pm for a 4 mile circular walk based on the River Ivel navigation. John & Sally Gunning 305925.

Rest In Peace

On the Sunday following a funeral service we remember in church those who have died. We light a candle to symbolise the light of Christ which eternally shines and brings hope. If you would like a person remembered in our service when the candle is lit, perhaps on an anniversary or birthday, please inform the ministers, or telephone the church office.

Hazel Worthington
May the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.'




St Mark's Coffee Shop

Every Sunday
2.30pm— 5.00pm
Don't forget to come along and enjoy great teas

"At Your Service" Too much to do and not enough time to do it? Two wonderful "Girl Fridays" can help you with housework, shopping, gardening, walking the dog, chauffeuring—in fact anything to make life easier (at very reasonable cost) Phone 07732191114 or 07879486286

Youth News: Joseph We have put together a photo board of the Joseph Workshop. It can be viewed in the large hall at Putnoe from today. Please let Liz know if you would like copies.

Bedfordshire Festival of Music, Speech and Drama. Please let Liz know if you would like to enter the Bible Reading class. We hope to continue the success of last year with first and second places from Chloe at St Mark's and Sarah at Putnoe. Entries need to be in by 1 December.

Fun Barn Dance Putnoe 17 November 6.00pm - 9.00pm details to follow
Putnoe Harvest Bring and Buy. The youth team are having a bring and buy cake stall. Half the proceeds will go to Malawi Children's Corner Project, which will launch next week. All donations greatly received.


Storybox Team Volunteers wanted. Could you join the storytellers, caterers and room setters. Small commitment on Mondays once every 4 weeks. Please see Liz for more details on how to support our very successful under 5's group.



Banns

We publish the banns and pray for the marriage of Danielle Monique Martin and Paul Barrett to take place on Friday 12th October at 4pm at St Mark's.

Rest in Peace



The funeral of Mrs Hazel Elizabeth Williams will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Monday 24 September at 11.30am *Royden*

The funeral of Mr Roger William Smith will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 28 September at 1.45pm *Royden*